AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for a data acquisition device, which is configured to generate at least two different types of data objects, to distinguish between the at least two different types of data objects, and to selectively and automatically transfer only some of the data objects, including a new data object to a user storage device and based upon a determination of data object type, the method comprising:

detecting a new data object;

determining a type of the new data object from a plurality of available types;

determining whether the new data object should be stored locally or whether the new data object should be stored remotely at a user storage device, wherein the determination of whether the new data object should be stored locally or, alternatively, at a remote user storage device is based at least in part on the determination of the type of the new data object and such that the new data object will be automatically transferred to the user storage device only when it is determined that the new data object is of a particular type configured for automatic transfer to the user storage device;

establishing a communication session with an online connection service and communicating with the online connection service to obtain a list of available user storage devices associated with the data acquisition device in response to determining that the new data object is of the particular type configured for automatic transfer, the method further comprising receiving a network address for each available user storage device on the list;

~~determining an availability of one or more user storage devices to store the new data object in response to the detecting;~~

selectively choosing at least one available user storage device to store the new data object;

establishing a communication[[s]] session with the at least one available user storage device; and

sending the new data object to the at least one available user storage device for storage therein.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the new data object comprises a media file selected from the group consisting of a sound file, a voice file, an image file, and a video file.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[4]]1, further comprising receiving a prioritized list of available user storage devices associated with the data acquisition device from the online connection service.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising receiving information on the communications protocols supported by each available user storage device on the prioritized list.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the sending of the new data object is in accordance with the communications protocol supported by the at least one available user storage device.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[4]]1, wherein communicating with the online connection service comprises sending authentication information to authenticate the data acquisition device to the online connection service.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising requesting permission to store the new data object at the at least one available user storage device before sending the object to the at least one available user storage device.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the requesting permission is performed implicitly by sending authentication information to the at least one available user storage device and receiving an authentication success message from the at least one available user storage device.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein establishing the communication session with the at least one available user storage device comprises establishing a peer-to-peer link with the at least one available user storage device.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein establishing the communication session with the at least one available user storage device comprises establishing a link with the at least one available user storage device through an intermediate proxy server.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium, having stored thereon a sequence of instructions which when executed by a data acquisition device, causes the data acquisition device to perform a method to transfer a new data object to a user storage device, wherein the data acquisition device is configured to generate at least two different types of data objects, to distinguish between the at least two different types of data objects, and to selectively and automatically transfer only some of the data objects, including the new data object to the user storage device and based upon a determination of data object type, and wherein the method performed ~~comprising~~comprises:

detecting a new data object; ~~.~~

determining a type of the new data object from a plurality of available types;

determining whether the new data object should be stored locally or whether the new data object should be stored remotely at a user storage device, wherein the determination of whether the new data object should be stored locally or, alternatively, at a remote user storage device is based at least in part on the determination of the type of the new data object and such that the new data object will be automatically transferred to the user storage device only when it is determined that the new data object is of a particular type configured for automatic transfer to the user storage device;

establishing a communication session with an online connection service and communicating with the online connection service to obtain a list of available user storage devices associated with the data acquisition device in response to determining that the new data object is of the particular type configured for automatic transfer, the method further comprising receiving a network address for each available user storage device on the list;

~~determining an availability of one or more user storage devices to store the new data object in response to the detecting;~~

selectively choosing at least one available user storage device to store the new data object;

establishing a communication[[s]] session with the at least one available user storage device; and

sending the new data object to the at least one available user storage device for storage therein.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 14, wherein the new data object comprises a media file selected from the group consisting of a sound file, a voice file, an image file, and a video file.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A data acquisition device, comprising:

a processor; and

a memory coupled to the processor, the memory storing instructions which when executed by the processor, cause the data acquisition device to perform a method for transferring a new data object to a user storage device, wherein the data acquisition device is configured to generate at least two different types of data objects, to distinguish between the at least two different types of data objects, and to selectively and automatically transfer only some of the data objects, including the new data object to the user storage device and based upon a determination of data object type, and wherein the method ~~comprising~~ performed comprises:

detecting a new data object;

determining a type of the new data object from a plurality of available types;

determining whether the new data object should be stored locally or whether the new data object should be stored remotely at a user storage device, wherein the determination of whether the new data object should be stored locally or, alternatively, at a remote user storage device is based at least in part on the determination of the type of the new data object and such that the new data object will be automatically transferred to the user storage device only when it is determined that the new data object is of a particular type configured for automatic transfer to the user storage device;

establishing a communication session with an online connection service and communicating with the online connection service to obtain a list of available user storage devices associated with the data acquisition device in response to determining that the new data object is of the particular type configured for automatic transfer, the method further comprising receiving a network address for each available user storage device on the list;

~~determining an availability of one or more user storage devices to store the new data object in response to the detecting;~~

choosing at least one available user storage device to store the new data object based at least in part on the determination of the type of the new data object;

establishing a communication[[s]] session with the at least one available user storage device; and

sending the new data object to the at least one available user storage device for storage therein.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Original) The data acquisition device of claim 18, wherein the new data object comprises a media file selected from the group consisting of a sound file, a voice file, an image file, and a video file.

21. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein determining if the type of the new data object is of a type configured for automatic transfer to an available user storage device comprises reading a configuration file included on the data acquisition device which specifies a plurality of data object types to automatically transfer to an available user storage device.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising wherein the configuration file included on the data acquisition device is input by a user.

23. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the online connection service stores active presence information about the available user storage devices associated with the data acquisition device.

24. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein establishing a communications session with the at least one available user storage device comprises a communications session which is separate and distinct from the communications session with the online connection service.

25. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein image data objects are of the particular type configured for automatic transfer, while voice data objects are not, and such that, such that image data objects are selected for automatic transfer while voice data objects are refrained from being selected for automatic transfer.